

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 07, 2011

CONTACT: Mark Hollis
(850) 488-9622

**SAUNDERS STATEMENT REGARDING FLORIDA SUPREME COURT
RECONSTRUCTION**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. --- House Democratic Leader Ron Saunders (D-Key West) offered the following reaction to Speaker Dean Cannon's proposed reconstruction of the Florida Supreme Court:

"We're at a time when the judiciary in Florida is underfunded, so the Legislature should fund the courts properly before we expand the number of judges. I have talked to the judges and, essentially, 90 percent of their budget is personnel costs. The judges say that if they don't get proper funding, they'll have to cut services that will impact the public. In my opinion, it's not a good time to expand the number judges when the ones we have aren't properly funded."

###